As regrads rice, 2.61 lakh MTs has been lifted from FCI during the current year (upto 16.08.2001) by the exporters for the purpose of export.

Export of Sugar

3365. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is currently the largest producer and consumer of sugar in the world;

(b) whether the country's sugar production uptil 2001 reached to a higher level;

(c) the export of sugar made during the current year; and

(d) the countries to whom sugar was exported and at what price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) India was the largest producer as well as consumer of sugar during the sugar season 1999-2000 (Oct.–Sept.).

(b) As on 30.6.2001, the production of sugar during the season 2000-2001 was 176.42 lakh tonnes (Provisional) as against 178.38 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date of the previous season.

(c) and (d) As per the latest available information from the trade circles, beginning October 2000 till 23.07.2001, a quantity of about 8.11 lakh tonnes of sugar (Provisional) has been physically exported. These exports have been made to Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Afghanistan, Canada, Indonesia, Dubai, Singapore, China, Iraq, Vietnam and Malaysia.

As sugar exports are being undertaken by various sugar mills/exporters as per their own commercial judgement, it is not possible to indicate the price at which the sugar has been exported by various parties.

BPL families in Andhra Pradesh

3366. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families living Below Poverty Line identified so far in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the quantity of rice released from Central Pool for these families during the last two years and actually lifted by the State during the said period, year-wise; and

(c) whether Government propose to give concession in rates of rice being supplied to the Below Poverty Line families of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) As per report received from the State Government, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has identified 113.60 lakh BPL families much above the number accepted by the Government. Subsidised foodgrains for the families in excess is distributed by the State Government of its own resources.

(b) The quantity of rice released from the Central Pool for BPL population and actually lifted by the State during the last two years are as under:—

(in '000 tonnes)

Year	Allocation	Offtake
1999-2000	453.360	433.570
2000-2001 (Provisional)	1316.648	923.047

(c) The Central Issue Price (CIPs) of wheat and rice for BPL families were revised downwards with effect from 25.7.2000. There is no proposal at present to reduce the price of rice being supplied for BPL population.

Procurement of wheat in Punjab and Haryana

3367. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat procured in Punjab and Haryana in the months of March, April and May in the years 1998, 1999 and 2000;

(b) the quantity thereof released for PDS in these two States during the following ten months in 1998, 1999 and 2000;

(c) the extent of damage/shortage reported during the said period; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to reduce the same?